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necessarily kill pay raises in this election year.

Much depends on whether the raises finally approved by Congress are truly "reasonable" in the eyes of Congress.

There can be many views about what is "reasonable."

But insiders are increasingly convinced that a veto of a 7.5 per cent pay bill, for example, would be over-ridden by Congress.

Just a Stall

Basically, what the Administration is trying to do is to

stall raises to protect its hoped-for budget surplus.

There is no logical reason why postal pay should be dependent on postal rates.

And there is even less excuse for the proposal that Classified raises be postponed pending completion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics study.

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The BLS study can be helpful.

But the Administration fools no one when it answers every employee request for a raise with a proposal for new salary study.

Employees have made an extremely solid, persuasive case for raises. They have con-

vinced the great majority of members of Congress.

Only the Administration professes to be unconvinced.

It has gone thru the same motions before.

It should be told, however, that this time members of Congress find its act wearing a little thin.